

# The CHRISTIAN



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

## Visitor

### Join FCC's Lenten Journey: A Season of Tenebrae

Our Lenten journey has begun. We prepared on Shrove Tuesday with fellowship and activities followed by a service including the imposition of ashes, reminding us “from dust we have been made, and to dust we shall return.” Pastor Helen has prepared a special Lenten sermon series “A Season of Tenebrae” that will follow the Narrative Lectionary and guide our journey to Holy Week and Easter. Please consider participating in one or several opportunities that have been thoughtfully planned to enrich your personal Lenten journey.

A special **Lenten Devotional** group designed for all ages began last Sunday (March 1) and will continue each week through Palm Sunday (April 5). Using coloring pages and brief reflections, an **Illustrated Lent: Reflections on Prayer** invites families of all types to focus intentionally on the spiritual discipline of prayer during the Lenten season. By exploring different Gospel passages of Jesus engaged in prayer, we will be encouraged to learn new ways to expand and enrich our experiences of prayer, individually, as families, and in community. Many special activities are planned, including creating prayer boxes and baking Lenten Pretzels. Join us in the Chapel Gathering Space at 11:15 am on Sundays!

Our **4-week Lenten Series: Story Circles** will begin Wednesday, March 11 and continue each Wednesday through April 1. The group will meet at 6:15 pm with a light supper served at 5:30 pm. Join us as we share stories, listen, pray, and (hopefully) experience the Peace of Christ in our midst. Pastor Helen will lead this series with trained facilitators Terry Daugherty and Brett Gershon. Childcare is provided from 6:15-7:30 pm. Please register for this group by calling the FCC office or filling out the sign-up sheet on the reception desk.

Looking ahead to Holy Week at FCC we would like for you to mark your calendars for two special events. On Maundy Thursday, we will gather for a **special biblically themed meal**, using only ingredients available in biblical times. *Make your reservation now!* On Holy Saturday, FCC Music Director Jan Harrington and the Sanctuary Choir will welcome cellist Adriana Contino and her string quartet for a very special presentation of **Haydn's The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross**. You will not want to miss this special concert. Invite your neighbors, family and friends. All are welcome!



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## Pastor's Pen

### *Week of Compassion's Recovery Effort in Tennessee and Meaningful Opportunities at FCC*

I learned about the deadly tornado that hit Nashville in a very disconcerting way: by reading my daughter Allison's Facebook post that announced that she and her family were safe. What!?!?!? I calmed down a bit after I spoke with her on the phone and then checked in with some of you who have family members living in Nashville. When I returned to my computer, my Facebook feed was filled with images of the storms aftermath, among them a post from the Week of Compassion (WoC), who had **already** been in contact with Disciples leaders in Nashville and it was still quite early on Tuesday morning! Here is the latest WoC update: "As of now, we know that New Covenant Christian Church sustained significant damage, and at least a few members of Disciples congregations have damage to their homes. We continue to be in conversation about where needs are emerging, how local Disciples are responding, and how Week of Compassion can best offer support. In the meantime, remember that the best way to help is: 'Stay, pray, and give.' While volunteers likely will be needed at a later stage, your financial gifts are most helpful right now. "

I thank God for the Week of Compassion and their swift response! By the time you read this article, we will have received additional updates about the specific ways that WoC is on the ground and working with our partners in clean up and recovery efforts, not just in Nashville, but quite literally around the world! Your gifts to Week of Compassion are always welcome and will be put to excellent use!

Now for something else: I'm excited about several new opportunities we have before us in the coming weeks. The first is our 4 week Wednesday Evening Lenten Series that is designed to help us connect more deeply with God, each other, and ourselves. The evening will begin with a simple supper and then move into what we are calling "Story Circles," when participants will be invited to hear and share short stories, based on the evening's general theme. Trust me, we will be pleasantly surprised by what will happen as we listen, laugh, and receive each others' stories. ***Please register your attendance by calling the church 812 332-4459 or by signing up at the reception desk.***

Second, over the coming weeks, we'll be putting the "Chapel" back into our Chapel Gathering Space during the 11:15 learning hour. Last week's session was informal, engaging, and spiritual as people of all ages gathered to create Lenten Prayer bags, create a prayer chapel, and enjoy conversation while coloring/painting images that lifted up the prayer theme. In my opinion, this was coffee fellowship at its best! If you do not already participate in an 11:15 group, I highly recommend this opportunity.

Third, I encourage you make note of two important upcoming events: Our Maundy Thursday Mediterranean Meal (RSVP's required), and our Holy Saturday Community Concert that will present Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross*. See page 4 for details.

Blessings!

  
Pastor Helen



## MUSIC NOTES

By Jan Harrington, Director of Music

### Some musical offerings along our Lenten Journey

The music of the “Fifth Evangelist” J.S. Bach will provide some significant stops on our Lenten journey in worship. On March 15, the **third Sunday of Lent**, the lectionary scripture relating **Peter’s denial of Christ** (John 18:15-18; 25-27), will be sung and presented dramatically in a scene extracted from **Bach’s *Passion According to St. John***. A solo tenor (the “Evangelist”) relates the gospel text in sung recitative, while solo singers and the choir portray Peter, the maid at the door, a guard who challenges Peter, and finally a crowd of onlookers who present the final challenge – “Art thou not one of his disciples?” to which Peter answers “I am not.” - denying Christ three times. A beautiful chorale closes the scene reflecting on Peter’s repentance and offering a prayer to Jesus to look on us should we be false and deny Christ ourselves.

On **Palm Sunday**, we will hear one of Bach’s earliest cantatas, **Cantata 182: “King of Heaven, Thou Art Welcome”** which he composed for Palm Sunday in 1714. It has a charming chamber sized-orchestration of one recorder, one violin, two violas, cello and organ. The opening sinfonia has the sound of early morning about it with the recorder and solo violin trading off piquant dotted lines against the pizzicato of the other strings. The opening chorus is delightfully child-like in its portrayal of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem. The arias which follow mark the beginning of the transition of the cantata from the joyous entrance into Jerusalem to a meditation on the Passion based on texts from Psalm 40. A profound setting for chorus of the chorale “Jesus, Leiden, Pein und Tod” (“Jesus, through thy suffering and Passion came our hearts redemption”) follows to prepare us in anticipation of the events later in Holy Week after the glorious sounds of Christ’s entrance into Jerusalem have faded.

At the musical end of our Lenten journey - at 7:00 the evening of **Holy Saturday** in the darkness after the events of Good Friday – the choir and a guest string 4tet will present **Joseph Haydn’s** profound meditations on **The Seven Last Words of Our Savior from the Cross** – music for a time of contemplation during the dark hours before the Easter Resurrection. For this event, the choir will be joined by guest cellist Adriana Contino and a professional string 4tet from Indianapolis.

Join us this Friday

March 6 at 6:30 pm for

First Friday Jazz Vespers at FCC!


  
 First Friday Jazz Vespers

Reflection

## Register Now for These Special Lenten Opportunities!

### Mediterranean Banquet on Maundy Thursday (April 9) at 6:00 pm

The evening of Maundy Thursday will mark the opportunity to partake in a biblically themed meal. Using only ingredients available in biblical times, a meal fit for King Solomon will be presented. In addition to having an evening meal, there will be insights given into food in the Bible which will aid in understanding certain passages.

Due to the nature of the unique meal, only those with a reservation placed by noon on Palm Sunday, April 5 can be seated. ***Please reserve a seat by placing your name on the sign up list on the Reception Desk or by calling the church office.***

### Lenten Devotional

No need to register for this intergenerational group that meets following Sunday Worship. ***Just join us as we explore the spiritual discipline of prayer.*** We will write our own prayers for special occasions this Sunday (March 8) and on March 15 we will create Prayer Boxes. Join us in the Chapel Gathering Space and bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!

### Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Story Circles (A 4-Week Series) Wednesdays March 11-April 1 at 6:15 pm (with a simple meal served at 5:30 pm)

Every Sunday morning, you pass the peace with those sitting near you. You know their faces. Perhaps you know their names. But what else do you know about them, and what do you wish they knew about you? Our four week Lenten Series will invite us into a time of deeper peace, giving us opportunity to deepen the ties that bind us together as a community.

Join us for a fun and meaningful time of sharing, listening, praying, and (hopefully) experiencing the Peace of Christ in our midst. Led by Pastor Helen with the help of facilitators Terry Daugherty and Brett Gershon. We will meet in the Chapel Gathering Space for a simple meal at 5:30. The Story Circles will begin at 6:15 pm. Childcare for children will be provided from 6:15 - 7:30 pm.

***Sign-up NOW at the Reception Desk!***

## Please Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend This Very Special Presentation

### Franz Joseph Haydn

### The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross (Hob. XX/1b; 2)

*Sung in English*

### First Christian Church Sanctuary Choir

Jan Harrington, Conductor

#### Vocal Soloists

Maria Izzo Walker, soprano

Liz Culpepper, alto

Renson Madarang, tenor

Joseph Andreola, bass

#### String Quartet

Tarn Travis, violin

David Brooks, violin

Terry Langdon, viola

Adriana Contino, cello

*A time of music, contemplation, and prayer*

**Holy Saturday Evening April 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm at First Christian Church**



### Please Pray For...

Liz Knapp, a longtime member of FCC, passed away in peace on Friday, February 21 (Alzheimer's). Please hold her husband Bill in your prayers in the days and weeks ahead. Even though death sometimes comes as a friend, still we grieve. Services were held on February 26. Cards and notes of encouragement may be sent to Bill at 3687 Tamarron Drive, Bloomington, 47408.

### GET REGISTERED!

Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, March 29, *Voices of Faith*, a Disciples Women's group, will be available in the Chapel Gathering Space or in the Reception Area during coffee hours both before and after worship to help with voter registration.

**Stop by and be sure you are registered to vote in the May 5 Indiana Primary.**



### Caregivers Create! March 2020

*Caregivers Create* is a **FREE** visual arts program for health caregivers, both personal and professional. It is designed to provide a bit of respite from the day-to-day tasks of caregiving, and to provide inspiration and relaxation for the health caregiver through an artistic adventure.

Each session focuses on an art project led by an experienced artist or crafter, many of whom are professionals. Projects include art journaling, watercolor painting, pressed flower bookmarks, origami, greeting cards, and other creative exercises. All supplies are provided, light refreshments served, and there's time for informal socializing with other caregivers.

#### MARCH 10 – Inspirational Art Journaling, continued.

We continue to work in our journals, discussing inspirational words and phrases, and then gathering ideas from each other on how to illustrate those words.

The general topic will be Spring – it's almost here! – and flowers and renewal.

#### MARCH 24 – Inspirational Journaling with Mandalas

Guest instructor Zoe Dean will provide a discussion about mandalas; how they've been used for centuries for meditation and contemplative purposes; then lead us as we create our own in our journals. Zoe is a longtime member of the Bloomington Watercolor Society, and currently is very active in the Owen County Art Association.



#### Reserve your place now!

It's free, but reservations are required. Currently, reservations are limited to 10 people. To reserve your spot, or for more information, email Jeanne Dutton at [CaregiversCreate@gmail.com](mailto:CaregiversCreate@gmail.com), or call First Christian Church, 812-332-4459.

### FCC Connects with Thriving Connections

**What is Thriving Connections?** Thriving Connections is an initiative for people who want to transform poverty into stability. It is a multi-generational community building model that gathers diverse people who cultivate intentional relationships across economic class by creating a safe harbor to focus on achieving financial, emotional, mental, physical, social, and spiritual growth. Thriving Connections provides a holistic approach to helping individuals and families captain their ship of life as they achieve their goals, better understand the challenges of poverty, and effect change.

**How is FCC Connected?** FCC has been a part of Thriving Connections, which operates through the South Central Community Action Program, for over ten years. How have we been involved? Every Thursday, families who are a part of this initiative meet at St. Mark's Methodist Church to share a meal, gather information, and spend time with people with stable resources who are willing to provide their support and assistance (these are called allies). Four times a year we have a group of FCC volunteers who plan, prepare, and serve a Thursday evening meal for the families.

**Are you interested in knowing more?** Joanne Weddle directs the group of volunteers for the Thursday meals (our next date is May 7). David Garshaw is an Ally (one of the support persons). Both Joanne and David serve on TC committees. How could you be part of this important ministry? Volunteer to help with the meals, attend a Thursday night meeting to "see what it is all about", pick up a brochure at church to read more (located in information literature boxes at Kirkwood and Washington street doors), or talk to Joanne or David with questions, more explanation or if you might consider being an ally. We have been involved with TC long enough to see some wonderful success stories. You, too, can be part of making a difference in the lives of people in our community.

### MCUM's Hunger Games Drive Begins!

While we've all felt the pangs of hunger, most of us are fortunate to know when we will get our next meal. But, for 2 out of every 5 Monroe County residents, that is not the case. In 2019, Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) fed 10,844 people through our emergency pantry, providing a total of 97,596 meals- over 10,000 more than last year, an agency record! Unfortunately, the demand has only increased, and this year we are expecting to exceed that number.

YOU can help! You can participate in MCUM's Hunger Games to help feed your fellow neighbors. From March 1st through April 30th. As part of FCC's 2020 MCUM Challenge, let's focus on our donations through this special Hunger Games campaign. Bring your donations of food, hygiene and cleaning items to FCC and place in the donation box near the elevator on the main floor. Let's help MCUM has they work to provide for our neighbors, even as the need increases! Thank you for your support during this special drive.



### Friday Game Night at FCC on March 13th!

Start your weekend off with a fun evening at FCC! Join us for another fun-filled Game Night on **Friday March 13th at 7:00 pm**. It's a FCC tradition! We'll have plenty of games and snacks. You are welcome to bring your own as well. The fun is open to all, including young'uns, friends and neighbors! It all starts at 7:00 pm in the Chapel Gathering Space on the second Friday of each month. *Hope to see you there!*

### Spring Youth Assembly in March!

Spring Youth Assembly is **March 27-29th** at **Bradford Woods**. This is open for youth in **grades 6-12th**. The theme this year is Loving Our Neighbor, Earth, and God. Assembly is a great way for youth to have a sort of "check-in" in the middle of the school year. It is planned by the Indiana Youth Council. The Youth will have an opportunity to engage in fellowship and spiritual growth with other youth from across the state. They also might see some of their "camp" friends! Contact Ashlyn Reynolds for more information or if you are interested in going to Spring Youth Assembly. Registration ends March 19th, so don't wait to register! FCC will pay half of the registration fees.

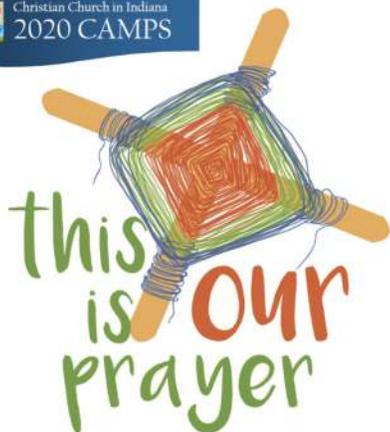


### Register Now for Summer Camp!

It's strange to think about registering for summer camp when it's cold outside, but it is time to sign up! Camp registration has already begun! The early bird deadline is **May 15th**. Camp dates are posted in the following link:

<http://indianadisciples.org/commissions/commission-on-faith-formation/#camp>

Church camp is an incredible experience for children and youth where they can grow in their faith and sense of community. There are scholarships available! Please contact Pastor Helen for more information on camp scholarships.



## March Birthdays



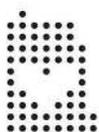
03/02	Andy	Stafford	1628 S. Bellemeade Dr.	Bloomington IN	47401
03/03	Jim	Ray	2001 E. Hillside Drive, Stier Park #4	Bloomington IN	47401
03/06	Bill	Knapp	3687 Tamarron Drive	Bloomington IN	47408
03/07	Wayne	Johnson	1900 S. Ramsey Drive	Bloomington IN	47401
03/07	Bob	Orr	1105 E. Regency Dr.	Bloomington IN	47401
03/09	Isabella	Coleman	2911 W. Julie's Way Apt. K	Bloomington IN	47403
03/09	Jihye	Choi	2100 E. Lingelbach Ln., Apt. 608	Bloomington IN	47408
03/13	Glenn	Read, Jr.	120 N. Lexington Dr.	Bloomington IN	47408
03/13	Tom	Trippel	1497 E Commander Ct	Bloomington IN	47401
03/15	Eugenie	Sullivan	8505 Woodfield Crossing Blvd., Apt. 323	Indianapolis IN	46240
03/15	Janet	Rowland	2455 N. Tamarack Trl. Apt. 134	Bloomington IN	47408
03/20	Amy	Stafford	1309 N. Edison Place Unit B	Kennewick WA	99336
03/20	Davis	Nam	3519 E. Morningside Dr.	Bloomington IN	47408
03/21	Casey	Houchins	3821 S. Westmont Ave.	Bloomington IN	47403
03/21	Charles	Watkins	1144 E. Benson Court	Bloomington IN	47401
03/22	Helen	Hempfling	1222 E. Tremont Way	Bloomington IN	47401
03/22	Carol	Isaacs	2959 Ramble Road West	Bloomington IN	47408
03/23	Marlene	Vass	1009 Waltz Court	Bloomington IN	47401
03/25	Jan	Parrott	543 Green Road	Bloomington IN	47403
03/25	Jason	Nam	3519 E. Morningside Dr.	Bloomington IN	47408
03/26	Doug	Cull	3144 Eden Dr.	Bloomington IN	47401
03/26	Marie	Settle	316 E. Dodds Street	Bloomington IN	47401
03/27	Nancy	Heimer	2455 Tamarack Trail Apt. 115	Bloomington IN	47408
03/28	Charlie	Sinn	2559 S. Smith Road	Bloomington IN	47401
03/28	Brian	Jackson	3693 S. Sowder Square	Bloomington IN	47401
03/30	Marti	Black	2724 McCartney Lane	Bloomington IN	47401
03/30	Ashante	Thomas	800 N Smith Rd., Apt. 1Y	Bloomington IN	47408
03/31	Doris	Brineman	2245 N. Tamarack Trail, Apt. 2	Bloomington IN	47408
03/31	Brandon	Lee	1028 S. Henderson St.	Bloomington IN	47401

*Please let us know if we have left anyone off of the birthday list.*



**Daylight Savings Time begins March 8!**

**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday!**



**MCUM Challenge 2020**

**Most recent trip: 78 lbs**

**Year-to-date: 297 lbs**

**March Items Wanted:**

**Food Pantry**

Canned green beans, corn  
Pasta sauce  
Canned fruit  
Mac and Cheese  
Canned tomatoes

**Cleaning Closet**

Laundry soap  
Dish soap  
All-purpose cleaners  
Shampoo  
Garbage bags

**Thank you for caring!**

**Missing Something?**

**Check our Lost & Found Box!**

Our Lost & Found box is overflowing! Perhaps there's something in there that you left behind? Check and see! We've placed the Lost & Found box in the reception area on the pew. Unclaimed items will be donated by April 6.

**UPCOMING EVENTS...**

**Friday, March 6**

6:30 pm *First Friday Jazz Vespers*

**Sunday, March 8**

8:30 am *Meditation Group*

9:00 am *Learning Session I*

10:00 am *Worship*

11:15 am *Learning Session II*

11:15 am *Lenten Devotional*

4:00 pm *Youth Bible Study*

5:00 pm *Bloomington Bible Study*

**Tuesday, March 10**

12:00 pm *Voices of Faith*

1:30 pm *Caregivers Create!*

5:30 *Listening to God meditation*

**Wednesday, March 11**

5:30 pm *Lenten Story Circles Series*

(supper at 5:30 and Story Circles at 6:15)

**Thursday, March 12**

5:30 pm *Handbell Choir rehearsal*

6:15 pm *Sanctuary Choir rehearsal*

**Friday, March 13**

7:00 pm *FCC Game Night*

**Sunday, March 15**

8:30 am *Meditation Group*

9:00 am *Learning Session I*

10:00 am *Worship*

11:15 am *Learning Session II*

11:15 am *Lenten Devotional*

4:00 pm *Youth Bible Study*

5:00 pm *Bloomington Bible Study*

**Tuesday, March 17**

5:30 pm *Listening to God meditation*

**A Season of Prayer**  
for  
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

BLOOMINGTON, IN



DIVERSE IN THOUGHT | UNITED IN FAITH | CALLED TO SERVE

A Season of Prayer for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Our General Minister and President, Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens, has called all Disciples into a season of prayer for the church. In honoring her request, we offer this prayer:

*Compassionate God,*

*Today we pray for the National Benevolent Association (NBA) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), giving thanks for the many ways that they have, on our behalf, cared for your most vulnerable since 1886. Thank you, God, for strengthening them to do your work: supporting 40+ Disciples related health and social service ministries, strengthening our Disciples presence in jail and prison ministries, offering direction for our Disciples mental health initiatives, administering the XPLOr residency program, and caring for your people in so many ways. We pray for the NBA President and CEO Mark Anderson as we give thanks for his humble and visionary servant leadership. And we pray for the small but mighty staff of the NBA as they seek ways to help congregations become communities of compassion and care. Hear this our prayer. Amen*

For more information about the National Benevolent Association (NBA), please see their website: <https://www.nbacares.org/>

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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*The Christian Visitor*

*Vol. 62, no. 5*



**Coffee Fellowship Treat Schedule**

**March 8:**  
Grades K-12 and Sharing Table

**March 15:**  
Sanctuary Choir and Handbell  
Choir

**March 22:**  
Campbellite Class

**Scripture Readings  
For Sunday Worship**

**March 8**  
John 13:1-17; Psalm 51:7-12

**March 15**  
John 18:12-27; Psalm 17:1-7

**March 22**  
John 18:28-40; Psalm 145:10-13